april, 1927

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI

SECTION

of

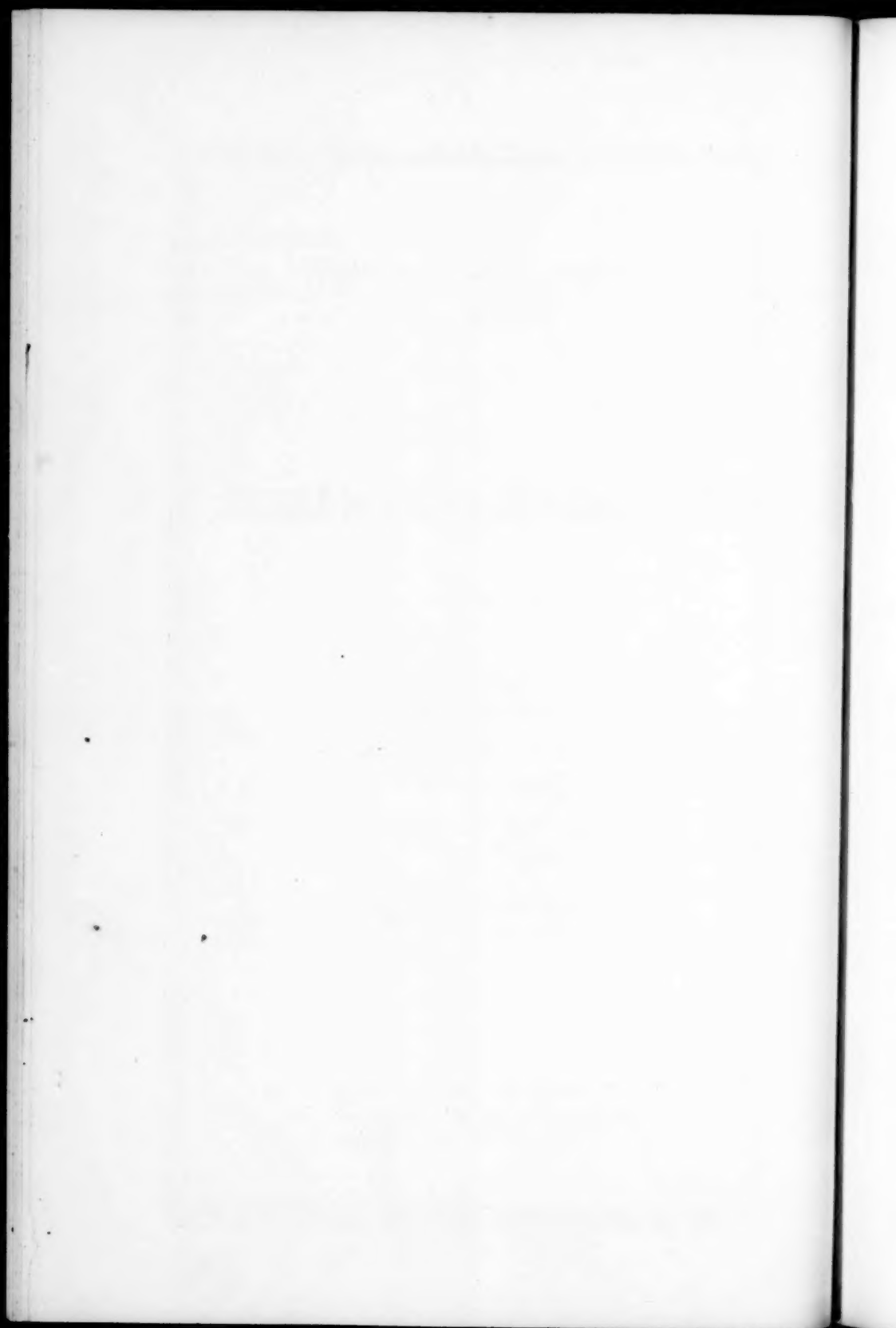# Mathematical Association of America

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S. T. SANDERS, *Chairman*
Baton Rouge, La.

P. K. SMITH, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Hattiesburg, Miss.

HAL FOX, *Vice-President*
Starkville, Miss.

J. A. HARDIN, *Vice-President*
Shreveport, La.

There Should be a Thousand Members of the
Mathematical Association of America
in Mississippi and Louisiana

IN APPRECIATION

One hundred mathematics teachers and mathematics supporters sitting down to a dinner in Hotel Youree, Shreveport, Friday evening, March 4, marked the highest level of mathematical interest yet attained in the history of Mississippi and Louisiana. Centenary College and Shreveport Chamber of Commerce did the part of joint hosts to the mathematical visitors superbly. The entire mathematics constituency of the La.-Miss. Section is indebted to President Sexton, Dean Hardin, Professors Maizlish and Reynolds, to Mayor Thomas, Mr. Yandel Boatner and those assisting them for the effective way in which they contributed to the success of the third annual meeting of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the M. A. of A.

The speech of President Boatner showed, as was to be expected, keen appreciation of the part mathematics plays in the development of industrial and scientific projects.

AS PLANNED

Things moved as by previous arrangment, with almost clock-like precision. Yet, flexibility of program, social contacts and sight-seeing were elements not wanting to the occasion. The round-table discussion of Friday evening was fruitful of much that is significant. With the assistance of Miss Marie Gugle, president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, who was present, a Louisiana-Mississippi branch of the Council was organized and officers were duly elected as follows: W. C. Roaten, DeRidder, La., Chairman; Miss Ida K. Smith, Meridian, Miss., Vice-Chairman; Miss Norma Touchstone, Secretary-Treasurer.

Acting jointly, the Section and the Council voted to hold their annual meetings at the same time and in the same place, the annual programs to be made out by the officials of the two organizations.

In this manner has been brought about a close official articulation of the high school and the college mathematics teachers of the two States. Properly used and steadily developed such organic association of the two groups of mathematicians is bound to have a transforming influence on the

mathematics teaching of this territory and, ultimately to be a powerful factor in deepening the public interest in mathematics, and in bringing about a more adequate rating of the value of mathematics in every scheme of education and training for citizenship. *For mathematics, (a), is the fundamental underpinning of every science, (b), is being increasingly appropriated as a necessary instrument in the so-called inexact sciences, (c), is an unequalled means of habituating a mind to well-ordered logical thinking, and to precise analysis.*

BUT THIS ARTICULATION OF THE TWO MATHEMATICAL GROUPS CAN BE MAINTAINED ONLY AT THE COST OF EFFORT !

The benefits are not to be realized unless certain conditions are met. Effort and struggle must be steadily put forth by an increasing number, if they are to be attained. Estimating that approximately two thousand people are teaching mathematics in the two States, it is a safe assertion that sufficiently rapid growth of the influence of the Mathematical Association of America and of the Council is not being maintained in this territory unless something like the following results are reached:

(*a*). Each week should add several new mathematics teachers to the roll of membership of Louisiana-Mississippi chapter of the Council.

(*b*) At least one new member should be added to the M. A. of A. from La.-Miss. territory every week of the year, on an average.

(*c*) In each issue of the bi-monthly news letter there should be several communications from mathematics teachers, college or high school communications aiming to stimulate mathematical interest anew, to impart valuable information of a mathematical sort, or to propose some question of mathematical interest.

(*d*) Steadily, throughout the year, there should be sent into our offices, to be added to our mailing lists, the names of mathematics teachers or mathematically interested persons.

(*e*) Money—absolutely essential to carry out every part of the Section plans—should be made available to the officials without the necessity of undue expenditure of effort. Schools, colleges, universities, mathematicians, are urged to make generous contributions to the maintenance of this

program of mathematical development in our two States, *For there is no form of university or high school or college extension work more worthy of support than the cause of mathematics and mathematics teaching!*

A LOUISIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ORGANIZED

Thanks to the scholarly vision and practical promoting ability of Professor I. Maizlish of Centenary College, aided by President Sexton and far-seeing citizens of Shreveport, there was formally organized on the occasion of the La.-Miss. Section meeting in Shreveport, a Louisiana Academy of Science. The significance of such a step cannot be over-estimated. When the scientists of a State associate themselves together for the systematic development and recordation of their scientific activity and for the scientific exploitation of the State's resources, a long step has been taken in the direction of lining up with the scientific programs of the time.

Professor P. K. Smith's Impressions of the Shreveport Meeting—Jefferson Davis and Marion Counties of Mississippi Strongly Support National Council

"At first I was somewhat undecided about going to the meeting of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the M. A. of A., but after being informed that my friend and former teacher, Dr. H. E. Slaught, was to be present, I was sure I wanted to go.

To me the most enjoyable feature of the Shreveport meeting was the fellowship. Some people possess the idea that scientists—and mathematicians are scientists—are dry and unhuman. Throughout the entire meeting I felt the air charged with a warm friendly, brotherly feeling. I enjoyed it so much. I felt that I was in a group of brothers having a common interest in a great cause. I was quickened and gained a deeper interest in my field.

Even though one does not follow the details in some of the scholarly papers presented at a meeting of this kind no one—and I am sure I will not—should miss the inspiration of the Section meeting. I consider it a special privilege to have gotten acquainted with Dr. Reeves and Miss Gugle. Dr. Slaught is bound to inspire one when one reflects on his interest in mathematics. After all is said it helps each one of us to come in contact with people who are looking up and doing things.

On March 28th the teachers of Jefferson Davis and Marion counties of Mississippi met at the Mississippi Woman's College. I called the mathematics teachers present together and told them about the great meeting we had at Shreveport on March 4 and 5. They were interested very much. Four out of eight or ten present promised to join the Council."

PROFESSOR REEVE ON THE COUNCIL
YEAR-BOOK

This is to inform the teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi that the second year-book of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics on "Curriculum Problems in Teaching Mathematics" is now available. It can be secured from the Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, for $1.25 postage prepaid.

The book consists of over 300 pages divided into three parts as follows: Part I on Arithmetic, Part II on Junior High School Mathematics, and Part III on Senior High School Mathematics. Those contributing to Part I are Professors T. B. Knight, T. G. Buswell and Miss Jessie Haynes; to Part II, Professor Ralph Beatley, H. C. Barber, C. L. Thiele, and Professors David Eugene Smith and W. D. Reeve; to Part III, Professor Smith, E. R. Smith and Miss Gertrude Allen.

I hope you will help us all you can by obtaining a copy yourself and by telling your friends about it.

Yours very truly,
W. D. REEVE, Editor,
Columbia University, New York.

MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES FROM WHICH NAMES OF HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHERS ARE DESIRED

Calhoun	Hancock	Leflore	Smith
Carroll	Hinds	Madison	Stone
Chickasaw	Humphreys	Marion	Sunflower
Choctaw	Issaquena	Monroe	Tallahatchie
Claiborne	Itawamba	Montgomery	Tishomingo
Clarke	Jackson	Neshoba	Tunica
Clay	Jasper	Oktibbeha	Walthall
Coahoma	Jones	Perry	Warren
Copiah	Kemper	Pontotoc	Wayne
De Soto	Lafayette	Rankin	Webster
George	Lamar	Scott	Wilkinson
Greene	Lawrence	Sharkey	Yalobusha
Grenada	Leake	Simpson	Yazoo

LOUISIANA PARISHES FROM WHICH NAMES OF HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHERS ARE DESIRED

Acadia	Grant	St. Helena
Ascension	Jackson	St. James
Assumption	Livingston	Vernon
Caldwell	Orleans	Washington
Evangeline	Sabine	Winn

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMPAIGN EXPENSE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 5, 1927

As information due the mathematical public of our Section territory and in appreciation of their assistance we list the names of the individuals and institutions that contributed financially to the campaign expense fund.

Centenary College (Pres. Sexton)	$125.00
Tulane University (Pres. Dinwiddie)	50.00
Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (Pres. Conniff) (Institutional membership)	25.00
Blue Mountain College (Pres. Lowry)	15.00
Mississippi Woman's College (Pres. Johnson)	15.00
Mansfield College (Pres. Raulins)	15.00
Miss Mabel Hutchins (Blue Mountain)	5.00
Miss Mary Spencer (Sophie Newcombe)	5.00
Prof. W. Paul Webber (L. S. U.)	5.00
Mrs. A. P. Daspit (L. S. U.)	5.00

DESIRABLE INFORMATION

The names of the newly elected officials of our Section are printed at the head of this news letter.

Effort will be made to issue a news letter every two months.

The subsequent issues will be sent out from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Chairman Sanders compiling and editing the material, Secretary P. K. Smith having it printed and mailed from that centre.

In this connection the following information is important:

(a) Moneys intended for use by the Section should be sent to Secretary-Treasurer P. K. Smith, Hattiesburg, Miss.

(b) Communications and letters intended for publication in the news letter should be mailed to S. T. Sanders, Chairman, Baton Rouge, La.

(c) Names of teachers of college, or high school mathematics, residing in Louisiana not already listed with us (see county and parish lists above) should be sent to Dean J. A. Hardin, Centenary College, Shreveport, La. If in Mississippi, they should be sent to Professor Hal Fox, Miss. A. & M. College, Starkville, Miss.

(d) Secondary teachers desiring membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics should send their membership dues ($1.00) to Chairman W. C. Roaten, DeRidder, La., or to Miss Ida K. Smith, Vice-Chairman, Meridian, Miss., or Miss Norma Touchstone, Secretary-Treasurer, Alexandria, La.

HOW LARGE ARE SOME OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS LIBRARIES ?

University of Georgia _____ 600 Volumes
University of Missouri _____ 1000   "
University of Arizona _____ 1000   "
University of Oklahoma _____ 1000   "
University of West Virginia _____ 1000   "
University of Florida _____ 1000   "
University of Texas _____ 1000   "
University of Tennessee _____ 1200   "
University of Indiana _____ 2500   "
University of Montana _____ 2500   "
University of Minnesota _____ 2700   "
University of Illinois _____ 7000   "
University of Nebraska _____ 8000   "
University of Iowa _____ 9000   "